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COUNTRY India

DATE DISTR. 19 October 1948

SUBJECT Bengal Artist's Association

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1. In Calcutta, most of the artists of All-India Radio, the gramophone companies, and the film production industry belong to the Bengal Artist's Association. The Association meets at the residence of Nirmal Chandra Chanda, a well-known attorney of the Calcutta High Court. The secretary of the Association is Pankaj Mullick, an artist of considerable ability.
2. The organization is roughly split into two groups, the division being not only along esthetic lines, but also political in nature. One group, which in general favors modern, popular music and includes a majority of the members, is Communist-dominated and is led by Sudhir Prodhan. Prodhan is on the West Bengal government's "black list" for his Communist activities. He was chiefly responsible for the success of the Radio Artist's strike some months ago. His two principal followers are Jagannoy Mitre and Hemanta Sarkar.
3. The other group, which in general favors the old classical songs, is anti-Communist and is headed by Jnan Chose, senior partner in the firm, Dwarkin and Sons, makers of musical instruments, and Sachindar Motilal. Secretary Mullick occupies a middle-of-the-road position in the club.

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